

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus for recording record information onto a recording medium having an optically recordable recording surface, comprising:

a laser light source;

a converting optical system for converting a laser beam emitted from said laser light source to a tabular shaped laser beam whose cross section extends linearly and for emitting the laser beam such that a direction extending linearly is along parallel to the recording surface;

a one-dimensional spatial modulating device for performing one-dimensional spatial modulation in the direction extending linearly with respect to the tabular shaped laser beam, on the basis of the record information;

a recording optical system for recording the record information onto the recording medium, by irradiating the recording surface with reference light based on the laser beam emitted from said laser light source while irradiating the recording surface with the spatial modulated tabular shaped laser beam as signal light; and

a displacing device for displacing the recoding medium relative to said recording optical system such that irradiation positions of the signal light and the reference light are relatively displaced on the recording surface,

said recording optical system including:

a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system; and

a combining optical system for combining the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light to a same optical path, in a subsequent step of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device,

wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the tabular shaped laser beam are located side-by-side parallel to the recording surface, as viewed from the recording surface.

14. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording optical system further comprises a splitting optical system for splitting the laser beam emitted from said laser light source into the signal light and the reference light in a previous step of said converting optical system, and

the one-dimensional spatial modulated signal light and the reference light are combined to a same optical path and irradiated to the recording surface.

15. (currently amended) The information recording apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said splitting optical system splits the reference light such that the optical path of the reference light and the tabular shaped laser beam are located side-by-side as viewed from the recording surface.

16. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the reference light is emitted from said laser light source, together with the signal light, and irradiated to the recording surface through said converting optical system, said one-dimensional spatial modulating device, and said recording optical system.

17. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an axis in a longitudinal direction of said one-dimensional spatial modulating device is crossed with radial direction of the disc-shaped recording medium.

18. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said combining optical system combines the signal light and the reference light to a same optical path, by multiplexing the signal light and the reference light.

19. (previously presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording optical system records the record information onto the recording medium such that an axial direction of a Fourier image is shifted from a radial direction of the disc-shaped recording medium.

20. (currently amended) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converting optical system emits the laser beam such that a flat surface of the tabular shaped laser beam is parallel to the recording surface.